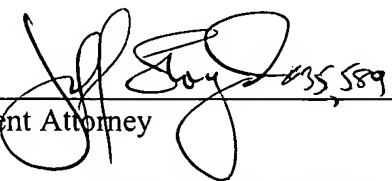




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1723  
IFW  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
Examining Group 1723  
Patent Application  
Docket No. USF-222XCT  
Serial No. 10/057,080

  
Jeff Lloyd, Patent Attorney

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Ernest G. Therkorn  
Art Unit : 1723  
Applicants : Abdul Malik, James D. Hayes  
Serial No. : 10/057,080  
Filed : January 24, 2002  
Conf. No. : 3341  
For : Sol-gel Open Tubular ODS Columns With Charged Inner Surface for Capillary Electrochromatography

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant wishes for the following to be placed in the file-wrapper of the above-identified patent application for benefit of notice to the public.

Applicants now believe that the methods of preparation disclosed in the subject application do not disclose all of the reagents necessary for an ordinary skilled artisan to make a titania or zirconia-based sol-gel coating for an open tubular capillary electrochromatography column. Applicants now know that the specific embodiments of titania or zirconia-based sol-gel coatings are prepared using, for example, chelating agents in lieu of positive catalysts. If prepared as taught in this application, in these specific embodiments there is premature precipitation. Applicants have discovered that, in lieu of positive catalysts for these specific embodiments, the chelating agents

control the hydrolysis rate, thereby slowing the reactivity of the respective titanium or zirconium alkoxides. Consequently, the chelating agents act, in a sense, as negative catalysts.

Respectfully submitted,



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